

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**June 20, 2011  
Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (16):** Sharon Anderson, Ed Bugliosi, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

**Voting Members Excused (2):** Liz Cameron, Bill Garthwaite,

**Voting Members Absent (3):** Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell, Damon Rodnac,

**Non-Voting Member Present (5):** John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Steve Penningroth (Associate), Linda Wagenet (Associate)

**Guests Present (1):** Angel Dybas

**Staff Present (1):** Kathy Wilsea (T C Planning Dept.)

The meeting of the Water Resources Council was called to order by Chairman Frank Proto at 4:18 PM. Frank thanked Vice Chair Barry Goodrich for presiding over prior meeting when Frank was excused.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes of May 16, 2011 were moved by Barry Goodrich and seconded by Cindy Schulte. Dan Karig submitted one correction for a typo and the minutes were accepted with no other changes.

**Thoughts on an Effective WRC Review of the Gas Drilling Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement** – The WRC Gas Drilling Committee is poised to review the revised draft when it is issued, and Marjory Rinaldo-Lee will chair the committee. Joan Jurkowich said the EIS often has three steps: scoping document; draft document, which is subject to public review; and the final document, which responds to comments. Once the final EIS is published, there are no more opportunities for review. The 1992 GEIS addresses the basics of the oil and gas program for New York State, and this EIS is supplemental to that.

The document under development is Generic because it does not address each site individually, but looks at the overall program. Joan noted GEIS are relatively rare. It is considered an Environmental document, although EIS occasionally include economic or social comments, too. It is an Impact Statement because it identifies impacts and mitigation measures.

Concerning review of this document, we do not know the timeframe yet. Our minimal duty is to check to see if our 2009 comments were addressed. WRC needs to identify who will review the components and perhaps prepare new comments. Joan submitted a draft timeline for 30 days, which will easily expand if more time is allowed for comments. She pointed out we also need to check for new sections and may decide to comment on them, too. Then the committee will meet and see which old comments go unchanged and coordinate new comments. She warned members the revised draft will probably not include cross-indexing. DEC will have cross-indexing in the final document.

Carol Chock said she heard from DEC that WRC provided our 2009 comments in detailed order. Darby Kiley said some TCCOG committees and community groups already have asked for a 90-day review period, as did WRC. The WRC Gas Drilling Committee will coordinate all comments members submit for the response, and Cindy asked that members be very specific about what section they are discussing when they submit emails. Marjory said it is important to check our old comments, as we spent a lot of time preparing them. Darby reported that Rod Howe of Cooperative Extension promised to review the two versions and prepare a PowerPoint document on the

differences. Other members said it is important to get started right away rather than wait for that comparison. Marjory asked that anyone submitting comments make sure the date/time stamp is in the footer of their version of comments so the committee can identify sequence in development of our response document.

**Committees – Grants:** Did not meet. **Nominating/Membership:** Cindy Schulte reported she expects objectives for recruiting to remain the same as last year. She would like to start recruiting earlier. Joan voiced an interest in keeping to the same schedule as EMC so staff can recruit for both in the same cycle. Any comments on recruiting can be sent to Cindy. **Streams:** Dan Karig said they met and discussed a “dream team”. Dan doesn’t see organization and coordination among agencies. John Nagley of SWCD suggested contacts for setting up a coordinating committee. This would have three goals: develop a way to inform the public about projects (SWCD website?); organize a symposium/forum to exchange information; and get the DEC permitting officer to attend committee meetings. The last is not possible, but others suggested meeting with him in Cortland. **Dredging:** Dan Karig reported they did not meet. But he wanted to discuss a letter in today’s Ithaca Journal from Roger Yonkin on the topic. Roger mentions a holding pond formed in part by levees. In order to function, it also requires a portable dam to be dropped down by the railroad line. Dan looked at the site and doesn’t understand how it would work or if it exists. Roxy will ask at the City. Roxy said the City has started testing in the channel for turbidity and total suspended solids. She speculates this could become baseline numbers for checkups. Steve Penningroth offered to contribute ten sets of numbers he has at CSI from the site by Wegmans. **Wetlands:** Darby Kiley reported they did not meet. Dan Karig said he found a wetland between Rt 79 and Sixmile Creek, behind Bethel Grove Church and down to Burns Road. He thinks it is a fascinating site – it is a registered wetland, some of which is on Finger Lakes Land Trust property. **Aquifer:** Todd Miller reported they will meet in July. He distributed hard copies of the Lower Sixmile Creek report. At USGS, they are working on the base maps for the Pony Hollow study in Newfield. Todd said he is ready to report out on the Dryden study. Frank said an idea was floated around a few months ago to retest at the aquifer study well sites, which would require \$1,100 – 1,200 in funding. **Monitoring Partnership:** Roxy Johnston said her current effort is to get 2007-08-09 sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen loading data gathered through the EPA grant sorted by CSI so it can be examined for impacts on the lake. DEC agrees our Quality Assurance Project Plan requests would have added weight if we can submit additional data. Darby said they are considering holding an education event for municipal officials and candidates for public office. It would include information on the lake, south end issues, 303(d) issues, an introduction to the monitoring plan, and tools used in testing as well as a Q&A period. **Education:** Elaine Quaroni reported they are following up on a suggestion from Lynn Leopold to update the Smart Steps. Sharon Anderson said that document was developed by Cayuga Lake Watershed Network using funding from three sources. **Executive:** Frank Proto reported they will do a special review of the work plan and present it to the council. They are also staying ready to finalize the gas drilling comments document. **Gas Drilling:** No report.

**Chair Report –** Frank extended congratulations to Craig Schutt and Linda Wagenet on the arrival of new grandchildren. WRC typically does not meet in August, and that decision will be made at the July meeting when we know how long the comment period is for the SDGEIS on gas drilling.

**Announcements/Other Business –** Elaine Quaroni asked if anyone is addressing setback distances between gas drilling sites and residences. She noted FHA won’t finance homes that have a drill pad within 300 feet of the house. Others said Carol Chock works with a committee that is interacting with banks on this point. Steve Penningroth distributed new CSI brochures. Darby Kiley said the TCCOG mapping committee rolled out their project at a meeting in Ulysses recently. This shows what our area would look like with maximum drilled sites. Presentation will also occur 6/29 in Lansing and 7/12 in Dryden.

**Adjournment --** The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary  
Adopted by the Council on July 18, 2011.